

Chapter One: Sarah, Queen of Gossip AKA My Lovable Bestie

“Oh. My. Gosh. IS THIS GOLD???” Sarah screamed, bursting my poor, innocent eardrums. I looked over at my friend Sarah, and saw what she was staring at. It was gold. Like, actual literal gold! In the game, of course. Gold was really rare, so you must understand her excitement. I sighed, taking my eyes off the screen, for I would probably never find any even if I played for a century. I turned back to my computer, when suddenly, I heard a scratch. I whipped my head around, in sync with Sarah’s, both of us staring at the door. “Uh.... Is that Arcanum?”, Sarah murmured quietly. Arcanum was my dog, and I loved him dearly. He had a talent for tricks, and could even point at his food or water bowl when he needed more. I crept towards the door. One step. Another. I grasped the door handle and turned it.

TO BE CONTINUED . . .



Mars Rover Mission

Less than half of the spacecrafts that were sent to Mars have actually made it. For every successful mission, there has always been a sad failure. One of which was The European Space Agency’s Schiaparelli orbiter, which crashed into the Martian surface upon descent in 2016. Because of these incidents, on February 9th, when the United Arab Emirates attempts to get their spacecraft into Martian orbit, their chances of success would be quite unlikely. If the Emirates happen to succeed in getting in orbit, they would become the fifth space program in the world to reach Mars after the Soviet Union.

This Emirates Mars Mission is part of an even bigger exploration that celestial scientists have been chasing for decades now, having hopes of figuring out how Mars changed from a wet, sunny, potentially habitable planet into a dry and cold one. A big part of that inquiry is to find out how the Red Planet lost most of its atmosphere so that all the lakes and rivers evaporated into nothing.

This mission plans to scrutinize Mars’ atmosphere using an orbiter named Hope and its 3 key gadgets. A camera will take photographs of Mars using plenty of different varieties of filters that restrict different wavelengths, helping planetary scientists discover more about water and ice amount in the atmosphere or/and the nature of dust storms.

Hope is planning to orbit this planet at a higher altitude than any of the previous Mars missions, allowing the scientists to see half of Mars no matter where Hope is. Hope is going to orbit Mars quite differently than most other Mars mission spacecrafts, orbiting nearly parallel to the equator, while others orbit around poles restricting their observation locations.

“A lot of the engineering emphasis has been on making the event completely autonomous,” says Pete Withnell, a scientist at the University of Colorado who’s currently working with the Hope mission, “During the event, we are observers. We get to see what’s happening, but we don’t get to interact in reality.”

The mission control expects to receive a signal soon after a 27-minute thruster burn that indicates whether or not Hope has fallen into a Martian “capture orbit”. But if they miss this signal, they must wait another hour or so as Hope is covered by Mars and waits to come out from around the bend.

“This is the riskiest phase of the project,” says Omran Sharaf, project manager of this mission, adding that the propulsion system for the mission is “something you cannot really test on Earth 100%, because you cannot really simulate the environment.”

Update: The Hope probe is officially in orbit around Mars. China and U.S have also sent Mars Rovers to Mars.

Luana T.
2/12/2021



Fun Fact Box

- Cats are lactose intolerant
- Bees can make different colored honey
- Bananas glow blue under blacklights.
- Martin Luther King Jr. got a C in public speaking

The History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a very special day when people give each other candy, flowers, and cards to show their affection to each other. It's celebrated all across the U.S and in many other countries. Valentine's Day has a very mysterious history, but the information people have uncovered is far from pretty. Valentine's Day has many origins surrounding it, and we don't know which is true, but all of them are sad.

One myth was that during the third century Rome, Emperor Claudius II decided that unmarried men make better soldiers than married men with children. So, the Emperor outlawed all marrying of young men. One priest called St. Valentine decided that this law wasn't fair, and started marrying young couples in secret. He was eventually caught and beheaded by Emperor Claudius II for everyone to see. This story is sort of romantic, but also very sad and unfair, not to mention violent.

Some others believe that a bishop named Saint Valentine of Terni was the real story behind the holiday, but he was also beheaded, making that myth none the less bloody. Other myths say that Valentine helped Christians escape Roman prisons. One such myth even suggests that Valentine was imprisoned there himself, where he fell in love with a jailer's daughter who visited him, sending her a note signed: "From your Valentine". We don't know much about what might have happened, and even though all of these myths were scary, you can't deny that there still was some love and sympathy behind them.

Even though people can't agree on the true reason for this holiday, it's still celebrated in places all over the globe, and it's a great excuse to eat candy.

Diya V.

2/11/2021



Joy of Painting: An Artist's Story

You may or may not know about Bob Ross, for he was more famous in the late 1900s. He was a person that a lot of people knew and looked up to. "Why?", you may ask. He has quite a big history that we are about to tell you, so buckle up, and get ready to hear about one of the most influential artists ever.

Bob Ross was born on October 29, 1942, in Daytona Beach, Florida. His dad, Jack Ross, was a carpenter and his mom, Ollie Ross, a waitress. Bob spent his teenage years caring for injured animals. "But he's an artist, not a vet..right?", you may think. Well, if you think that's weird, listen to this. When Bob was 18, he joined the U.S. Air Force. During his military career, he had to act tough and mean and decided never to raise his voice after he left the military. But what about his painting career? We're just about to find out.

Bob started to develop an interest for painting after going to the U.S.O. club- a service that keeps military members connected with their home and family, such as providing multiple programs with comedians and musicians. Bob realized that his painting instructors did more abstract art, and wanted to do more than that. Bob eventually found out about a TV show called *The Magic of Oil Painting*. It was hosted by a German artist, Bill Alexander. Bill used a painting technique dated back to the 16th century called "alla prima", also known as "wet-on-wet". Using that technique, a painting would take no more than 30 minutes. Bob studied and mastered the technique and began selling his own paintings. He left the military in 1981. Bob became a traveling tutor and salesman after joining "Alexander Magic Art Supplies company". In one of his sessions, he met a woman named Annette Kowalski who convinced him he could do well on his own. Bob, his wife, and Annette put together their savings to create Bob's company, which was hard to manage at first.

Bob created a TV show called *The Joy of Painting* which aired from January 11, 1983 to May 17, 1994. But, it continued to broadcast across many countries. In the TV show, Bob would give instructions on how to paint the certain painting for the episode. He would use the wet-on-wet technique. Bob was known for many things such as his permed hair, which he hated but stuck with it because it was already iconic. He was also known for his funny phrases like, "let's add some happy little trees" and, "beat the devil out of it"--which he used when drying off his brush.

Bob Ross died on July 4, 1995. Although he is no more, we still love him and hold him in our hearts as the happy, influential artist he was. He has put the idea out there that **anyone** can be an artist.

~Akshera V. 2/19/2021

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Riddlemaster

I am clean when I'm black, and dirty when I'm white, what am I?

A chalkboard.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter!

